

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOCI, ECOSOC, XJ

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - AD HOC WORKING GROUP

REPORT ON SOUTHERN AFRICA - ALLEGATIONS RE

CHEMICAL WARFARE IN PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES

REF: GENEVA 1399

FOR USDEL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

1. DEPT. RESPONDED TO CONG. DIGGS' INQUIRY RE ALLEGED
CHEMICAL WARFARE IN PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES IN LETTER
DATED FEBRUARY 8, 1973. RELEVANT PORTIONS OF TEXT OF
LETTER FOLLOW:

BEGIN QUOTE. THE CHEMICAL HERBICIDES KNOWN AS 2,4- D AND
2,4,5- T HAVE, SINCE 1965, WHEN THE POTENTIAL OF THEIR
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APPLICATION IN MILITARY OPERATIONS BECAME RECOGNIZED, REQUIRED VALIDATED (INDIVIDUAL) LICENSES FOR ALL DESTINATIONS EXCEPT CANADA, INITIALLY UNDER THE MUNITIONS LIST MAINTAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND SUBSEQUENTLY UNDER THE COMMODITY CONTROL LIST MAINTAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. ACCORDING TO THE AVAILABLE RECORDS, THERE HAS BEEN NO EXPORT OF THESE SUBSTANCES TO PORTUGAL BY THE UNITED STATES. CACODYLIC ACID AND PICLORAM ARE GENERALLY CLASSIFIED IN A BROAD CATEGORY OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS WHICH ARE NOT SUBJECT TO VALIDATED LICENSING

CONTROLS TO FREE WORLD DESTINATIONS. SINCE STATISTICS ARE MAINTAINED ON THE BASIS OF THE BROAD CATEGORY, WE HAVE NO WAY OF DETERMINING WHETHER THE SPECIFIC SUBSTANCES OF PICLORAM AND CACODYLIC ACID HAVE BEEN EXPORTED TO PARTICULAR DESTINATIONS. IN ANY CASE, THESE SUBSTANCES ARE MANUFACTURED IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES, ARE AVAILABLE FROM DIVERSE SOURCES, AND ARE IN WIDE COMMERCIAL USE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WOULD NOTE THAT PORTUGAL ITSELF MANUFACTURES HERBICIDES....

IN RESPONSE TO THE SUGGESTION THAT NAPALM FURNISHED BY THE UNITED STATES SINCE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EMBARGO IS BEING USED IN THE PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES, I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE THAT WE HAVE INVESTIGATED SUCH CHARGES BEFORE AND HAVE FOUND NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THEM. THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT SELL NAPALM TO PORTUGAL FOR USE IN AFRICA. WE STAND READY TO EXAMINE ANY EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY. END QUOTE.

2. CONTINGENCY PAPER ON " AID TO PORTUGAL" PROVIDES GENERAL GUIDANCE THIS SUBJECT. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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